

CONFIDENTIALTALKING PAPER

1. The Purpose of Ambassador Garrigues' Visit: The Ambassador will present a letter from General Franco reaffirming Spain's friendship and renewing pledges of cooperation.

He may also inform you of the conversations between Spain and the Soviet Union relating to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, of his forthcoming departure from Washington for a new assignment, and may indicate again Spain's interest in working with the United States in Latin America.

2. Items for the President to Raise:

a. It is recommended you say that from the informal translation of General Franco's letter you are pleased by the encouragement and support it contains and by the stated continuity of the present Spanish policy of close cooperation with the United States.

b. It is recommended you comment on the generally excellent state of our relations with Spain. You might refer to the ten years of very close cooperation by the military services of both countries and your personal pleasure that the American-Spanish Defense Agreement has been extended for another five years.

c. It is recommended you express gratification for the prompt Spanish assurance of clearance in the event of over-flights to Cyprus.

d. It is recommended you say that you are sure the Spanish Government will find the means for eliminating Spain's trade in commodities critical to the Cuban economy, withdrawing the five small Spanish ships and preventing Spanish aircraft from carrying cargo to or from Cuba.

(Background: Although the two Governments are ideological opponents Spain has many ties with Cuba. Spain justifies its increased trade with Cuba by her apparent great need for sugar. Some sectors in Spain citing U.S.-Soviet trade are not in sympathy with our Cuban policy of economic denial. A specific problem arises from the provisions of the recently enacted Foreign Assistance Act under which Spain by February 14 must take appropriate steps to prevent its ships and aircraft from carrying cargo to Cuba. Should Spain

not do

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

State Dept. Guidelines

By je, NARA, Date 5-16-09

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not do so we will be confronted with the requirement of the Act to withhold assistance from countries which fail to take such steps. Although some Spanish officials seem to be unwilling to believe it, this requirement, in the absence of a Presidential waiver, would prevent us from furnishing the military assistance to which we were committed when the Defense Agreement was renewed in September 1963. The commitment was conditioned on continued statutory authority, but such action on our part could still lead to a re-examination by Spain of the entire Defense Agreement.)

e. If the Ambassador refers to his transfer to the Vatican (which has been announced) it is recommended you thank him for his efforts in strengthening friendly relations between the United States and Spain.

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